

January 2022

Dear Parents

We are writing to clarify the process of induction into the Sixth Form for Year 11.

The St Aidan's and St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form is widely recognised on account of its high academic standards and the pastoral support it offers to students at a crucial stage in their development. It is also the largest school-based sixth form in the country. Remarkably, it dates back to 1973 and during the past 49 years has flourished as a unique educational venture. Students continue to be registered at either St Aidan's or St John Fisher but they are fully integrated for lessons and also for many extended curriculum activities. The Sixth Form's outstanding reputation for academic success is based not only on first class results but also our record in achieving places at the most competitive universities in the country.

The size of the Sixth Form and its successes have allowed us to introduce a vast range of courses in all kinds of disciplines which should enable us to meet the needs of every student. The Association offers the widest range of choice in North Yorkshire and has achieved national recognition for sport, dance and music. The majority of our Year 11 students choose to enter the Associated Sixth Form although some students require alternative routes and the Careers Department provides support and guidance for those seeking college or apprenticeship options.

Choosing the right Sixth Form courses is essential for each student's prospects and there will be a process of information-giving to help with this in the coming weeks. Most subjects will offer course details during lesson time. To remind you, the majority of students will select 3 A Level and/or Applied General Level 3 courses and have the option also to study Core Maths or AS Level Maths. If a student has a particularly high academic profile then they can choose four subjects but this will be the exception rather than the rule.

On Thursday 20 January during Period 4, Year 11 students will have a presentation by the Headteachers and Directors of Sixth Form; staff whose subject is not taught in Year 11 will share information about their courses.

On the evening of 20 January, the Sixth Form Information Evening was scheduled to take place at St Aidan's but in the light of current Covid restrictions this has been postponed and we hope to be able to proceed with the event on Thursday 10 February. In the meantime, short videos will be available via each school's website from 20 January which provide an introduction to each course. The event on 10 February will include an opportunity to be briefed on the Associated Sixth Form and to discover what it has to offer: it is important for you to hear about the differences and demands the Association makes of Sixth Form students. We will explain the Sixth Form curriculum and outline the support and extra-curricular provision available. Individual advice on subjects and careers guidance will be on offer and there will be short presentations in Constance Green Hall at St Aidan's, with advice on how to progress towards a successful Sixth Form career.

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There are two options that are available to book:

Option 1 has the presentation at 5.30 – 6.00 pm followed at 6.15 pm with an opportunity to meet subject staff.

[BOOK OPTION 1](#)

Option 2 meet subject staff from 5.30 – 6.00 pm followed by the presentation at 6.15 – 6.45 pm.

[BOOK OPTION 2](#)

Due to the likely size of the event, students who currently attend St Aidan's and St John Fisher do not need to attend this meeting: St Aidan's and St John Fisher students will be fully briefed within school.

In registration periods during the week commencing 24 January, Year 11 students will be recording in their planners ideas about courses which they are considering and what they would like to know about those subjects. This is important preparation for the Sixth Form Forum, which we host on Wednesday 2 February P4 in Constance Green Hall. This event gives Year 11 students the chance to speak to Sixth Form representatives about each subject. We hope that you will discuss at home with your student their possible courses and preparatory questions so that they can make the most of this opportunity.

Students who wish to remain in school for the Sixth Form will be issued with an application form for the Associated Sixth Form on Thursday 20 January. We would encourage parents to discuss the application form and course choices with students before the completed application form is returned to school by 4 March. It is important that the subject choices indicated at this stage are as accurate as possible, as this information will be used as the basis for our timetable provision for next year. It may be possible to change subject options after this but we cannot always guarantee places on popular courses.

Following the application process, students focus exclusively on their GCSE studies and an induction event is held across the St Aidan's and St John Fisher sites during the week beginning 20 June, after the conclusion of public examinations. In addition, each course will provide transition work to be completed over the summer. Enrolment meetings for students will follow post GCSE results (dates to be confirmed), at which we confirm that entry requirements have been met and final course choices are agreed.

We hope that you find this information useful and look forward to welcoming you to the Information Evening on Thursday 10 February.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. I. Kidman". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

C I Kidman
Director of Sixth Form, St Aidan's